



July-August 2005

ZOOM

IN ON THE USA

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OUTDOORS



■ Wild Ride - White Water Rafting

What it's like:

One moment, all is calm. The next, you're frantically paddling in the direction you remember as forward, water spraying every which way, your five-meter inflatable raft airborne, your stomach halfway up your throat, your heart pounding, and one of your raft-mates screaming at the top of her lungs. In other words, you're experiencing the thrill of your life! Seconds later, all is peaceful and quiet again, and you're catching your breath, eager for the next rapid.

Where to go:

From a wild whitewater adventure to a relaxing float in the summer sun, Colorado's rivers dish up some of the best rafting in the world.

When to go:

The prime rafting season starts in the United States in late April, when snow melts and runs off the mountains. Most trips take place between mid-May and August, but die-hards hit the water well into October.

Based on Hi International article by Melanie D.G. Kaplan available at: <http://hiinternational.com>

What you'll need:

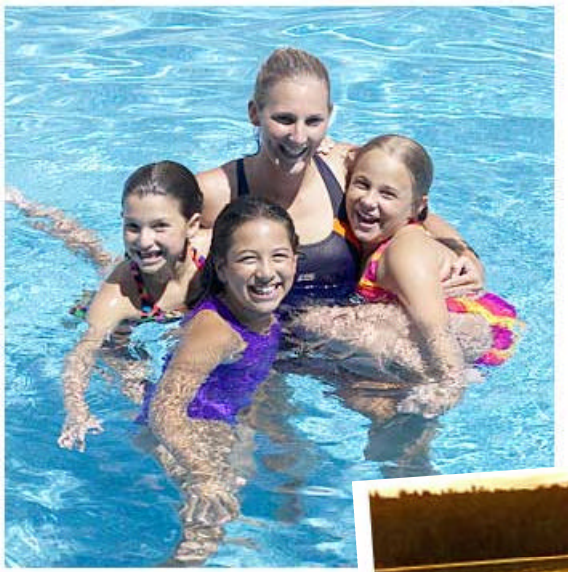
- a raft and paddles (usually 8 people per raft)
- a good life jacket and helmet
- in cooler temperatures - warm, waterproof clothing and wool socks
- in warmer temperatures - shorts and a t-shirt or a tank top
- sunscreen
- a pair of shoes with rubber soles or special slip-on water shoes

■ Summer Camps: a Tradition in the U.S.

During each summer, 10 million American children head off to summer camp. Camps provide varied activities to meet many interests. Most camps offer a general program of outdoor activities of hiking, swimming, sports and games, arts and crafts, and nature awareness. Some camps emphasize programs such as horseback riding, water sports, music, or adventure challenge activities. **Label the photos with appropriate names of activities.**



New activities and programs are being added to camp programs including such challenging and adventurous activities as high and low ropes courses, climbing walls, zip lines, backpacking, mountain biking, and cave exploring. Some camps offer programs in performing and fine arts such as dance, theater, singing, ceramics, leather crafts, woodworking, photography, etc.



Text adapted from American Camp Association publications. All photos © American Camp Association.



Over 35,000 of the summer camp workers are international staff on J-1 visas placed through international placement organizations. Many of them are Spaniards who work as camp counselors, lifeguards or kitchen staff. Maybe you'd like to consider working at an American camp when you become a university student? Read more at: www.embusa.es/edu/campsp.html



■ And What If It Rains? ■ Mrs. Smith Goes to Ethiopia

The movie producers have made sure this year that even if it rains you aren't going to be bored. Read an excerpt from a review of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" (see also article on the right) by MTV critic, Kurt Loder.

"Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie sparkle in a comic jewel..."

"Mr. & Mrs. Smith" is three different kinds of a pretty great movie. It's an action film in which high-powered mayhem (gunfire, slugfests, rocket bursts, roaring explosions) virtually never lets up... The movie is also a terrifically funny comedy built on the glittering back-and-forth between the two leads — the dialogue really sparkles. And it's a love story that arises naturally out of their testy relationship...

But what really revs up the movie and launches it into comedy heaven are the performances of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. Their chemistry, both verbal and physical, is exhilarating."

What makes a good review? Follow the recipe below:

- Start by putting in at least basic information about the film - the title, the director and lead actors. What sort of film is it? A comedy, a thriller? Does it have a general message? Anti-war? Drugs? Love?
- Include a general outline of the plot but don't give too much away! Keep surprises and the film's ending to yourself.
- Add critical points:
 - Does the plot make sense or is it illogical, unbelievable, too predictable?
 - Are lead actors good in their parts?
 - You can choose a scene you thought was acted very well and say why you liked it.
 - Do you like the camera work?
 - Does the soundtrack fit in well with the plot and pictures?
 - Would you recommend this film? To what kind of an audience: children, families, teenagers?

Give it a try! Write a review of a movie that you have seen this summer (yes, **in English**, of course) and send it to irc@embusa.es.

Best authors will receive prizes!



UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie inside convoy truck with Congolese refugees just arriving in Tanzania. The country hosts nearly 1 million victims of persecution and war. (March 2003) UNHCR/ N. Behring-Chisholm

You're going to see her in the upcoming action movie/romance - "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" in which she stars next to Brad Pitt. Angelina Jolie plays a secret assassin and not even her husband, also a professional assassin, knows about her real job.

Problems start when they are both assigned by their employers to kill the same person.

Although she plays many roles onscreen, Academy Award and three-time Golden Globe winner Angelina Jolie is also a concerned global citizen and active UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Goodwill Ambassador. UNHCR currently assists 20 million refugees in approximately 120 countries.

Goodwill Ambassadors use their access to mass media to give a voice to refugees, who are often victims of forgotten humanitarian crises. Goodwill Ambassadors also voice their support for refugees in meetings with the public at large. More at: www.unhcr.ch/

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie talking with refugee children in Kakuma camp, Kenya. Over 50% of refugees are under 18. (October 2002) UNHCR/ M. Furrer

Angelina, mother of 2 adopted children (from Cambodia and Ethiopia), uses her superstar status to draw the public's attention to the refugees. She has traveled to remote refugee camps in such countries as Tanzania, Namibia, Cambodia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Ecuador and donated millions of dollars to causes around the world.



Jolie quote

"I think at the end of the day, we're all alive to get to know ourselves and each other better, and to be of some use in this world."

Based on UNHCR publications

Activity Page

Win a Prize!

To win a prize write a review of a movie that you have seen this summer and send it to irc@embusa.es

Best authors will receive prizes.

More information and advice on how to write a movie review on page 3.

Give your name and address.

The deadline is September 15, 2005.

Good Luck!

The winners from the previous issue will soon receive their prizes by mail.

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About ZOOM

Zoom is online at
www.embusa.es/irc/zoom.html

Contact us at
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US Information
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Find answers to activities on this page at www.embusa.es/irc/zoom.html

■ Getting Down to Business

"Get on with your work!" shouts the teacher straight over my head. I am wondering how on earth I am going to get ahead with my classic Greek if I cannot make heads or tails of the simple text that is lying in front of me. Suddenly a piercing noise rings in my head. It's my alarm clock and the classroom scene was - phew! - just a bad dream! It's time to get up but even that is better than classic Greek in August!

Don't get me wrong - I get along with almost all my teachers but everyone deserves a break from school once in a while, right? A little time to get away from those piercing eyes of even the friendliest teacher and from the thought "Is he going to ask me?" Just a few weeks to finally get around to the more pleasant activities of teenage life - lazing around, chatting, daydreaming... Unfortunately, for a couple of years now, about a month before summer my father gets down to business: "Son, you're not going to just waste this summer away, are you?" And believe me, I wouldn't get away with just a hesitant "no." The plan needs to be there - instead of lazing around - grass mowing; instead of chatting - dog walking; instead of daydreaming - floor mopping at the local McDonald's. Come to think of it, classic Greek can't be that bad!

*These eight phrasal verbs with **get** were used in the text above. Match the phrasal verb with its meaning in this context.*

get ahead with
get along with
get around to
get away from
get away with
get down to
get on with
get up

arise from bed
escape from
proceed with
become serious about
to find the necessary time or effort to
have a friendly relationship with
do something without being punished
make progress with

■ Cook's Recipe

Choose the correct word in each context.

The **cook/cooker** was furious when he found out the meat had gone off.

One of the places you have to go to when in Tunisia is their beautiful **desert/dessert**.

You won't be able to exchange this blouse unless you still have the **receipt/recipe**.

Since we had this **economical/economic** heating installed, our bills have become much lower!

Ironing is my least favorite kind of **homework/housework**.

■ Glossary

airborne - being in the air

back-and-forth - a discussion

die-hard - a strongly devoted person

dish up - to present, offer

glitter - to shine, sparkle

mayhem - destruction

paddle - a wooden tool used to propel a boat

prime (season) - the most active (period)

raft - a flat craft for floating on water

rapid - a fast-moving part of a river

rev up - to make more effective

slugfest - a fight

sparkle - to give off flashes of light

testy - impatient

whitewater - of river rapids

zip line - a pulley suspended on a cable to enable a person to traverse from the top to the bottom